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Voice of the People (4)

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Letters to the Editors must be brief, must be signed (though name may be withheld on request) and must avoid defamatory or abusive statements. The Editor reserves the right to reduce lengthy letters and to limit the number of letters on any one subject.

On a wall is posted a cartoon of a negro in chains with a white man standing on him and on another wall hangs a painting of the Confederate Flag with such language that I dare not repeat it here. The room itself seems to be filled with an air of fear and deadly oppression.

Dr. Silver is quite an interesting and seemingly intelligent man, yet I must confess that I pity him. Any man who has been forced for twenty-eight years to live within the boundaries of Mississippi, in order to attempt to tell the truth to a group of students who do not understand the dear old man or his personal philosophy, deserves the pity of all true and sincere Mississippians. When Dr. Silver told me he had a fear of being murdered, and yet he must stay and tell the truth, I was shocked! Why, I asked myself, would this kind old professor, who no one fears, have to fear for his life? I do not believe that any person would kill, or attempt to kill, this poor old man for saying what he thinks. After all he is only an insignificant history professor and not a U. S. Senator or State Governor. And then the answer came to me. Dr. Silver is placing more importance on himself than I or the people of Mississippi place on him. So once again I found myself feeling sorry for the good professor.

As the good Doctor and I talked on, we came to the discussion of his being fired. This has had a lot of publicity lately and yet many people misunderstand what our legislators are trying to do. I soon learned that Dr. Silver felt a personal dislike for the Honorable Representatives Malcolm Mabry, Charles Blackwell, Al Sturgeon, and Rex Jones because he feels that they are attempting to deprive him of his freedom of speech; yet if you had a sales representative in your company who went out into the streets and told your customers that they could get better service

and better goods down the street at another store, I wonder how long you would hesitate before firing him. What is the difference between this type of man and Jim Silver? He is going across the United States condemning the institute and the state which has fed him for twenty-eight years. Truly a man like this deserves the sympathy of each of us for having held him in bondage so long.

I sincerely urge the people of Mississippi to give their complete support to the Honorable State Senator Corbet Lee Patridge, Honorable Representative Malcolm Mabry, and the other dedicated members of the legislature who are earnestly working for the good of Mississippi in trying to remove this self-proclaimed savior of the people of our state. I can not help but believe that the people of Mississippi are intelligent enough to see truth and justice for themselves without the special assistance of Dr. James W. Silver. I urge each citizen to write your legislators in support of their efforts to remove Dr.

Silver from the University of Mississippi faculty.

Sincerely,
John P. Patrick
3841 Northbrook Drive
Jackson

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the people of Mississippi an interesting and true summation of the famous Dr. James W. Silver. His name has recently been heard throughout America and yet many Mississippians have never met or talked with him. I recently made a visit to the University and spent quite some time in conference with him. I would like to sincerely thank him for the time he allowed me and for the copy of his pamphlet Mississippi: The Closed Society, which he so generously donated to me.

The people who have never been in Dr. Silver's office have truly missed something. On one